

“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997). Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge is an extremely important component for the conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plant resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with their habitat, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

The Refuge is opened every day from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, except for authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums.

Activities Allowed

- Wildlife Observation and Photography
- Wildlife Education and Interpretation
- Sport Hunting in designated seasons and areas
- Sport Fishing in designated seasons and areas
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Vehicle use on designated routes only
- Jogging and bicycles on roads open to public vehicles
- Pets allowed on leash

Activities Allowed by Special Use Permit

- Firewood cutting
- All commercial activities or fundraisers will be determined on a case by case basis

Activities Not Allowed

- Harassing, feeding, driving, and/ or baiting wildlife
- Night time activities
- Camping
- Open Fires
- Swimming and Sunbathing
- Collection, consumption, and/or removal of any and all objects, plants, or animals
- Release of plants or animals on the Refuge
- Target Shooting
- Littering including the use of flagging or markers
- Leaving personal property overnight or establishing permanent structures
- Metal detecting or searching for items of antiquity
- Off-road motorized vehicles and off-road biking
- Hanging or cleaning wildlife/fish in public areas
- Cutting or trimming of trees
- Possession/Use of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Fishing tournaments
- Blocking of gates with vehicles
- Defacing or destroying of Refuge property
- Horseback Riding
- Toxic Shot, Oversized Shot, or Drug
- Personal Watercrafts, Airboats, and Hovercrafts
- Bowfishing

Special Hunting/Fishing Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, “Code of Federal Regulations.” State bag limits, arms and ammunition, and other applicable State regulations apply. State hunting and fishing licenses are required on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations. All U.S. Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.

Hunters who fail to abide by all applicable regulations will be considered to be hunting without permission.

Hunters are required to sign and carry the refuge brochure signifying they have read and understood the rules of the hunt. This brochure must be in the hunter’s possession at all times while hunting on the Refuge. We recommend all user groups wear hunter orange during hunting seasons.

Hunting will not be permitted within 100 yards of the fenced-in Refuge work center area, hiking trail, or the Refuge boat ramp. Waterfowl sanctuary is open to all entry from March 1 through November 30.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the Refuge must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (see §27.42 of this chapter and specific refuge regulations in part 32). Persons may only use approved nontoxic shot in #4 or smaller shotgun shells (see §32.2(k)), .22 caliber rimfire or smaller rifles, or legal archery equipment according to State regulations for federal lands. We prohibit magnum ammunition. Firearms are prohibited in all federal facilities. Discharging a firearm for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established hunting seasons is prohibited.

Only designated game species may be taken. Incidental species (squirrel, raccoon, opossum, beaver, nutria, feral hogs, and coyotes) may be taken during hunts with the weapon legal during those hunts. A hunter cannot hunt the Refuge with the sole intent of taking just these incidental species. All other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

We prohibit damaging trees or hunting from a tree that contains an inserted metal object (see §32.2(i)). Personal property must be removed from the Refuge each day except for one portable stand (including tripods and ground blinds) (see §27.93 of this chapter). The stand is required to be tagged with the hunter’s name, address, and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Portable stands may not be installed on the area prior to seven days before deer season opens, nor left longer than seven days after deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by USFWS.

All hunters harvesting Refuge wildlife must record harvest data at one of the checkout stations upon conclusion of each day’s hunting. Check stations and scales are located at Bobby’s Fish Camp (Highway 84) and Refuge Work Center (Womack Hill).

All youth hunters under age 16 must be supervised by an adult 25 years of age or older, and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult while hunting. Adults must comply with State Regulations on supervision and one adult may supervise no more than two youth hunters.

Hunts	Dates
<i>Small Game</i>	
Squirrel & Rabbit	November 1 - 30 (Dogs allowed outside of Middle Swamp {between Okatuppa and Turkey Creeks})
<i>Deer</i>	
Archery	October 25 – November 30
<i>Feral Hogs</i>	Taken as Incidental Species Only

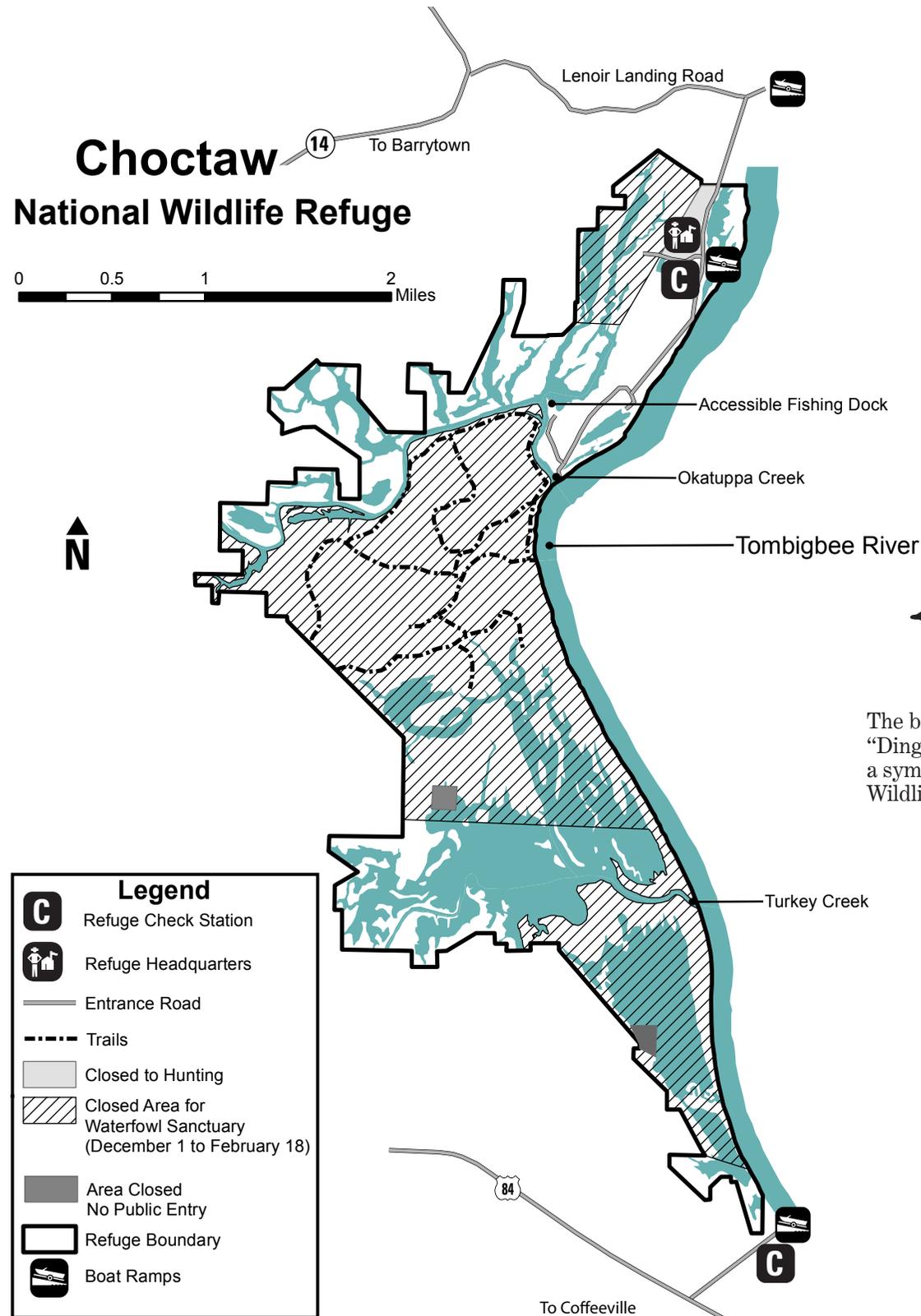
Fishing is permitted year-around on Refuge waters except in the waterfowl sanctuary, which is closed from November 15 through March 1. Only fish, according to state regulations, may be taken, possessed, or transported.

Commercial Fishing – A Refuge Special Use Permit is required for commercial fishing. Commercial fishers may use nets, seines, baskets, and boxes legal for use within the State of Alabama. A cumulative maximum of 10 boxes/ baskets will be allowed per permittee. All gill nets must be actively attended at all times. Information on harvest data will be required.

Fishing	Year-round unless specified
Sport fishing (rod/reel and pole/line only)	All water bodies unless specified

Choctaw

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting, Fishing, and Public Use Regulations 2015-2016



The blue goose, designed by "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge

Hunt Permit 2015-2016 Signature on this brochure is required to validate it as a permit to participate in hunts on Choctaw NWR. By signing, permittees agree that they have read and understand all regulations contained within. Hunters are required to keep their signed permit in possession at all times while hunting.

Signature of Hunter

Date

Expires 8/31/2016